



# UPDATE

*Virginia Keeps America Moving* December 1997

## VDOT SEEKS YOUR INPUT ON I-81

### **What's the Latest on I-81?**

The Virginia Department of Transportation is in the very early stages of studying how to widen Interstate 81 and improve existing interchanges. For planning and study purposes, VDOT has divided the interstate into 10 study areas and hired private engineering firms to study the different design options.

### **Citizen Information Meetings to Begin**

Currently, all 10 widening studies are under way, and preliminary concepts for interstate improvements are being developed. During the next few months, several citizen information meetings will be held throughout the I-81 corridor so citizens have the opportunity to review and comment on the early ideas for widening I-81. The next meetings will be held in early December for two study areas in the Staunton transportation district. *(See table on back for more information.)*

### **Should I Attend the Meetings?**

Public involvement is essential at this point in planning the interstate improvements. These meetings are your opportunity to make comments on what VDOT is proposing. "Now is the time for people to tell us what they think of our initial concepts, so we can incorporate their opinions as we proceed with designing more detailed construction plans," explains Fred Kiiffner of VDOT's Location and Design office.

### **What Will I See at the Meetings?**

At the meetings, handouts explaining the study will be available, and conceptual plans will be displayed. It is important to remember that the plans presented at these meetings are only conceptual designs of proposed improvements and not actual construction plans. "Nothing is set in stone. We have only preliminary concepts, but it is absolutely essential that people become involved at this point in the process," emphasizes Kiiffner.

For your convenience, information meetings will be conducted in an "open forum" style with no formal presentation. VDOT representatives and consultants will be present to explain the project and answer questions.

### **When are the Meetings?**

Meeting time frames are listed in this newsletter. As meetings are scheduled, notices will be placed in your local newspaper and on VDOT's Web site. Our Web site address is [www.vdot.state.va.us](http://www.vdot.state.va.us). Once you've reached our Web page click on "Planning and Projects." Then look for I-81 information under "western Virginia."

### **Where Can I Get More Information?**

Call your local VDOT office:  
Bristol (540) 669-9910 Don Necessary  
Salem (540) 387-5356 Rob Cary  
Staunton (540) 332-9118 Terry Jackson

## TENTATIVE SCHEDULES

<b>I-81 Mile Posts*</b> <small>* Meetings for segments not listed have concluded.</small>	<b>Counties</b>	<b>Citizen Information Meetings</b>	<b>Study Completion Date</b>
22 – 72	Washington, Smyth, Wythe	February 1998	October 1998
72 – 81	Wythe	April 1998	October 1998
81 – 116	Wythe, Pulaski, Montgomery	January 1998	October 1998
120 – 163	Montgomery, Roanoke, Botetourt	January 1998	June 1998
163 – 180	Botetourt, Rockbridge	January 1998	October 1998
180 – 229	Rockbridge, Augusta	December 10, 1997 December 11, 1997	September 1998
229 – 265	Augusta, Rockingham	March 1998	October 1998
265 – 305	Shenandoah, Warren, Frederick	January 1998	October 1998
305 – 323	Frederick	December 15, 1997	June 1998

**Department of Transportation**

**Richmond, Virginia 23219**

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